

24. (amended) A method for casino gaming accounting comprising the steps of providing at least one gaming computer located in the proximity of a gaming table wherein each of the at least one gaming computers comprises the steps of:

providing a data entry device for [entering] only the dealer to enter transaction data for transactions that occur at the gaming table;

providing a display for displaying the entered transaction data;

providing a processor for executing a software program wherein the processor reads and stores the entered transaction data;

providing a memory array for storing the entered transaction data; and

providing at least one peripheral devices for outputting the entered transaction data.

REMARKS

Currently pending are claims 1-24, of which claims 1, 3, 6, 12, 13, 18 and 24 are amended. Applicant thanks examiner for pointing out the inconsistencies in the claims. Claim 3 has been amended to correctly depend from claim 1. Claims 6, 8 and 18 which recited the limitation of "gaming terminals" have been amended to recite "gaming computers". Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

However, as for the use of "router" in claims 6, 9, 10 and 18, Applicant has so defined router as a common connection point for devices in a network on page 12, lines 13-16, Fig. 2 (part 40) and other places and believes that this is adequate explanation. Please withdraw this rejection, too.

The Invention

Applicant has also amended all of the independent claims to better define and delineate the invention from disclosures in the prior art. Applicant has invented an elegantly simple system for improved accounting for the funds from gaming. The system and method provide cross-checking to the hand work and paper slips previously relied on and provide more prompt data. The system requires only the dealers to operate computer

terminals associated with the gambling tables and the terminals to transmit the information to a central computer. As the dealer places items in the table lock-box (cash, IOUs, credit slips for chips, fill slips for chips transferred to table), the dealer also records the transaction on the computer. This enhances accounting and cash security and retention by pre-recording what goes into the lock-box. It does not increase guest security, bypass the dealer with gambler data entry, etc.

The Cited Art

Franchi proposed a highly complicated system with computer terminals or other computer peripherals for use by both the dealers and the gamblers. They proposed to cut out dealer and dealer/gambler cheating by equipping gamblers with computer access. There is two-direction function, in that the gambler can ask for credit from the central computer which sends a signal to allow or deny credit. All claims include "at least one computerized player console."

Hoehne disclosed a computer console on each gaming table which has two-way communication with the main computer. Each table also has a magnetic card reader for the security guard and pit bosses as well as a way to record the chip inventory.

The Cited Art Distinguished

Neither of the cited patents offers the simplicity or robustness of the Applicant's invention. The Applicant's invention only supplies the bare minimum needed to properly account for the money as it enters and leaves the table and counting room. Both cited references have additional features, which are not necessary from an accounting standpoint (e.g., gambler preferences, two-way communication, etc.).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (775) 849-9746.

Respectfully submitted,

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